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MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of
EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT
MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

Edgar H. Reeder, Chairman

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FL. 286

AUGUST, 1968

July Non-Farm Jobs Climb to 201,200

SEASONAL JOB PEAK NEAR—Industrial employment in Montana, building up monthly since March, is now approaching the peak for this season. The seasonal job upswing has added 20,800 wage earners to non-farm payrolls since March. After a gain of 1,300 workers from June payrolls the July non-farm employment figure stood at 201,200. This was but 200 short of the all time record for that month set in July last year just prior to the start of the lengthy copper strike.

JOB TOTALS AT RECORD FOR FIRST 6 MONTHS—There were more workers on Montana's non-farm payrolls for each of the first six months of this year than in comparable months of all past years. This accomplishment, during part of the copper strike and in its aftermath, reflects the basic strength and growth of other Montana industry groups. In fact, monthly non-farm employment for the first three months of this year (while the copper strike was still in progress) was higher than in the same three months of 1967 which were strike free. Monthly non-farm employment averaged 181,100 for the first three months of 1968 compared with 179,500 for the same period of 1967.

OVER-THE-MONTH GAINS CONTINUE—Six of the eight basic industry groups recorded more job gains from June to July this year. Respond-

ing to good weather and new project starts construction payrolls led the field adding 1,300 workers. The 900 more workers on manufacturing payrolls were all in the lumber industry. Trade was close behind with an addition of 800 workers. Smelter payrolls are now even with last year. Good tourist trade was mainly responsible for lifting employment in service industries by 600, to a total of 30,400. Employment in mining, and in finance, insurance, and real estate firms increased by 100. Employment in transportation, communications, and utilities, at 18,400, did not move from the June total. Government employment showed a drop of 2,500 chiefly the result of the absence of educational personnel from July payrolls.

INSURED JOBLESSNESS AT LOW LEVELS—On August 1st, the ratio of unemployment among workers insured under Montana's UCC law was among the lowest in the nation. Montana had 1.4 per cent of its insured work force unemployed against a national average of 2.0 per cent. Thirty-one states had a higher insured jobless rate than did Montana. Montana had 2,156 unemployed workers claiming jobless benefits at mid-August.

FULL USE OF MANPOWER AND NEW PROGRAMS—A substantial amount of federal legislation in the past 7 years has been geared to the

full utilization of manpower resources. The first, the Manpower Development and Training Act of 1962, has been highly successful in Montana. Through training programs in 94 different occupations it has provided more than 3,600 workers with new skills, and sharpened and upgraded their chances for better and more productive employment.

The Concentrated Employment Program (CEP) is the latest addition to the roster of manpower programs. The six county program is now getting underway with the Butte-Silver Bow Anti-Poverty Council as the sponsor. It seeks to bring together in one united effort the various manpower programs. Training opportunities will be provided for more than 1,545 hard core unemployed.

The Work Incentive Program (WIN) proposes to move men, women, and out of school youth 16 or older off the welfare rolls and into productive employment. It is specifically directed at welfare recipients of aid to families with dependent children. The initial WIN project in Montana involves five counties: Silver Bow, Yellowstone, Glacier, Missoula, and Cascade—where fifty per cent of the state's aid to families with dependent children case load is located. An initial enrollment of 400 persons is expected when the program becomes operative later this year.

LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES (Per 100 Employees)

(Compiled in cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	ACCESSION RATE						SEPARATION RATE								
	Total			New Hire			Total			Quit			Layoff		
	June 1968	May 1968	June 1967	June 1968	May 1968	June 1967	June 1968	May 1968	June 1967	June 1968	May 1968	June 1967	June 1968	May 1968	June 1967
All Manufacturing	8.5	6.5	8.2	7.9	5.7	7.4	4.4	4.8	5.3	2.7	3.2	3.3	.8	.9	1.0
Durable Goods.....	9.1	7.6	8.9	8.7	6.7	7.9	4.3	5.2	5.5	2.9	3.9	3.7	.4	.4	.6
Primary Metal.....	6.0	8.7	12.3	5.6	7.6	9.6	2.8	3.7	4.4	1.6	2.6	3.2	*	*	.7
Nondurable Goods.....	7.2	4.2	6.7	5.9	3.6	6.3	4.6	4.1	4.8	2.3	1.7	2.5	1.6	1.9	1.8
All Mining	10.8	8.9	8.6	4.0	1.6	4.1	9.4	30.3	5.4	2.6	9.0	3.9	.8	19.3	.1
Metal Mining.....	13.0†	8.3	9.0	.6	.8	3.1	10.8†	52.1†	6.3	.8	14.6	4.5	.4	34.8†	.1

* Less than .05

† High accession and separation rates for June, 1968, is due to interplant transfers—(not shown in published data)

‡ High separation rates for May, 1968, are due to quits and layoffs of returning employees at termination of copper strike, who had not previously been counted as separations and for whom no work is now available.

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary for July

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Philipsburg—July labor market activity on the neutral side. No major construction activity, sluggish main street trends, and lack of smelter hiring kept most job trends at low ebb. Federal programs aimed mainly at youth employment provided most job opportunities. Farm labor demand slow prior to start of haying.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup — Employment now leveling off after earlier seasonal hiring. Trade jobs show some increase with opening of new retail firms. Highway construction payrolls at 406 workers equal last year. Other projects include additions to two shopping centers, 3 new restaurants, 4 retail firms, 6 service stations, college buildings, feed plant, and feed lot. Farm labor demand at good pace with some shortages of experienced irrigators and farm couples.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident—All industries at good seasonal job strength except for lumber mills where log shortages have caused some temporary layoffs. Construction in progress includes 120 unit motel, additions to area schools, retirement home, and hospital. Work on airport improvements at Belgrade underway. No labor shortage evident for grain and hay harvests.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—Majority of July job placements were made with trade and service firms. Opening of new department store provided most new jobs. Mining employment stays at same levels with no new hiring; about 500 miners not recalled to jobs after strike settlement are now employed by out of state mining firms. Moderate farm labor demand.

CUT BANK — Job seeker totals doubled from June as workers returned to area looking for jobs. Road and building construction, lumber mill production, and trade comprised main labor market activity. Farm labor demand reduced by mechanization.

DILLON—Good farm labor demand resulted in placement of 159 workers. Major activities were haying, irrigating, herding, fencing, and general farm

MONTANA CIVILIAN WORK FORCE (In Thousands)

	July 68	June 68	July 67	June 68 to July 68	July 67 to July 68
Civilian Work Force	291.1	291.9	301.1	—0.8	—10.0
Total Employment	278.7	275.9	287.9	2.8	—9.2
Total Non-agricultural employment	233.4	231.7	234.7	1.7	—1.3
(Non-agricultural Wage & Salary)	201.2	199.9	201.4	1.3	—0.2
Total Agricultural- Employment	45.3	44.2	53.2	1.1	—7.9
Labor Management Disputes	.1	.1	*	—	.1
Total Unemployment	12.3	15.9	13.2	—3.6	—9.9
Percent Unemployment	4.2	5.4	4.4	—	—
U.S. Unemployment Rate	—	4.5	4.1	—	—

*Less than 50

chores. Good construction agenda includes school and college buildings, church addition, and large sawmill.

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim — Construction was the main labor market force during July. Most local workers employed on various projects. Main street business slowdown results from air base closure. Efforts continue for finding other uses for the multi-million dollar base facilities.

GLENDIVE, Circle, Wibaux—Steady employment maintained on variety of construction including bridge and road work, commercial and educational buildings. Work on new hospital in finish stages. Heavy tourist trade makes for good main street business. Cooks and waitresses in short supply.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—Hiring by trade industries accounted for most labor market activity during July. A labor dispute involving hotel and restaurant workers holds down some job hiring. Building construction at fairly good pace. Weekly hiring continues at copper smelter. Brisk farm labor demand finds sufficient labor supply.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—Employment demands slowing down as season shortens. Most July hiring occurred in manufacturing, service, government, and private households. Construction at low ebb. Fairly active farm labor demand for hay and berry harvests.

HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem — Heavy tourist traffic, increased construction activity, and better main street climate generated good job prospects

during July. Start of \$166,000 civic improvement project employed 30 workers. Farm and grain crops look good with harvests requiring good supply of hands.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs — Fair labor demand covered most industry groups during July. Normal seasonal demand for clerks and food service personnel. Some shortages of cooks and waitresses. 120 men working on \$5 million interstate road project on two shifts. Plans developing for downtown hotel-convention center; old buildings now being demolished at site.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Whitefish — Job increases noted in retail trade, aluminum production, and agriculture. Surplus of both skilled and unskilled construction workers after completion of major building project. Sweet cherry harvest used approximately 1,500 workers in picking and warehouse activities.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnett — Job placements should sharp increase from last year. Missile remedification work employs over 300. Main street business benefiting from increased population. Good farm labor demand for harvest work.

LIBBY — Libby Dam approaching job peak of 1,900. Employment fairly well stabilized in trade and service firms. Some worker shortages including cooks, loggers, and equipment operators. Replacement hiring at mills will begin late August as students leave jobs to return to school.

NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS BY MONTHS (in Thousands)

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1956	156.6	154.4	156.3	163.0	169.3	177.4	177.4	179.8	177.2	171.6	170.4	166.7	168.6
1957	156.8	155.0	156.8	161.3	166.0	172.0	174.2	174.2	170.8	167.1	163.2	159.9	161.8
1958	153.1	150.3	150.5	156.4	162.4	167.1	170.2	172.2	170.0	168.8	165.8	162.4	162.4
1959	155.3	153.2	155.9	162.2	167.5	171.0	177.5	179.2	169.9	165.6	161.5	159.4	165.1
1960	152.7	152.5	156.1	163.5	168.4	175.8	176.9	177.7	174.8	171.6	167.5	161.5	166.8
1961	156.9	154.8	156.1	160.2	165.1	173.3	176.0	178.1	176.8	172.4	169.0	162.2	167.1
1962	158.3	158.2	159.6	166.2	172.1	180.1	180.5	181.2	178.6	176.6	175.1	173.5	171.7
1963	163.9	163.0	165.0	170.2	175.1	181.0	182.3	183.8	181.5	179.7	176.6	173.6	174.6
1964	166.2	161.3	165.1	169.1	174.2	182.4	185.5	187.2	184.9	182.2	178.4	175.4	176.2
1965	167.9	167.1	168.9	171.1	179.8	188.7	189.6	192.1	189.9	188.1	185.3	183.6	181.2
1966	173.9	172.6	174.2	180.2	185.1	195.6	198.2	199.2	195.8	191.2	187.6	186.9	186.7
1967	179.9	178.5	180.1	181.6	188.7	199.0	201.1	196.6	195.4	193.8	191.7	189.7	189.9
1968	181.0	180.1	181.8	187.5	192.2	199.9	201.2*						

*Preliminary Estimate—

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary for July

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber — Good seasonal job strength evident in most industries. Shortages of cooks and waitresses developed. Prevalence of campers and trailers at Yellowstone Park cut into lodging and food service there, eliminating 150 workers. Logging and mills on unsteady basis.

MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Jordan, Broadus, Terry — Prospects of good farm harvests and increased oil field activities created good main street business. Transportation industries also benefited. Farm job placements over the 900 mark.

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior—Increased worker demand in trade industries highlighted July labor market trends. Construction keeps good job levels with new buildings in progress. Loggers and equipment operators still in short supply. Farm labor demand showed good upswing.

POLSON—Sweet cherry harvest and processing now completed for this season. Shortages of fallers and tractor operators still exist in lumber industry. Construction at low ebb.

SHELBY — Employment now at peak for this season in most industry groups. Tourism gives boost to trade and service firms. Transient farm labor not in volume of past years.

SIDNEY — Good construction volume, promise of good farm crop yields, and a prosperous main street adds up to a good economic picture for the area. Farm labor shortages expected for grain and sugar beet harvests later.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs— Good gain noted in job placements with work season near peak. Influx of transient workers during July seeking work and residence. Farm labor demand at good pace.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey — Seven major projects make up bulk of construction activity with full employment on all. Oil field trends not too active. Moderate labor demand in trade and service firms. More farm machinery reduced demand for manual labor.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in cooperation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			NET CHANGE	
	July 1968 (2)	June 1968 (3)	July 1967	June '68 to July '68	July '67 Against July '68
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	201,200	199,900	201,400	1,300	— 200
Manufacturing	24,800	23,900	24,500	900	300
Durable goods	17,100	16,200	16,300	900	800
Lumber and timber products	9,900	9,000	9,500	900	400
Primary metals	4,500	4,500	4,500	00	00
Other (4)	2,700	2,700	2,300	00	400
Nondurable goods	7,700	7,700	8,200	00	— 500
Food and kindred products	4,000	4,000	4,400	00	— 400
Printing and publishing	1,600	1,600	1,700	00	— 100
Petroleum refining	1,100	1,100	1,100	00	00
Other (5)	1,000	1,000	1,000	00	00
Mining	5,800	5,700	6,900	100	—1,100
Metal mining	3,000	3,000	4,500	00	—1,500
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic	1,000	1,000	900	00	100
Petroleum-natural gas production	1,800	1,700	1,500	100	300
Contract Construction	13,600	12,300	13,800	1,300	— 200
Contractors, building construction	4,400	4,300	4,400	100	00
Contractors, other than building	5,100	4,400	5,100	700	00
Contractors, special trade	4,100	3,600	4,300	500	— 200
Transportation and utilities	18,400	18,400	18,800	00	— 400
Interstate railroads	7,200	7,200	7,600	00	— 400
Transportation except railroads	4,700	4,700	4,700	00	00
Utilities including communication	6,500	6,500	6,500	00	00
Trade	47,100	46,300	47,300	800	— 200
Wholesale trade	9,300	9,000	9,100	300	200
Retail trade	37,800	37,300	38,200	500	— 400
General merchandise and apparel	6,800	6,800	6,900	00	— 100
Food stores	5,500	5,400	5,600	100	— 100
Eating and drinking establishments	10,500	10,200	10,400	300	100
Automotive and filling stations	7,900	7,800	8,200	100	— 300
Retail trade not elsewhere classified	7,100	7,100	7,100	00	00
Finance, insurance and real estate	7,500	7,400	7,500	100	00
Services and miscellaneous	30,400	29,800	30,600	600	— 200
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc.	5,000	4,300	5,100	700	— 100
Personal services	2,100	2,100	2,300	00	— 200
Other (6)	23,300	23,400	23,200	— 100	100
Government	53,600	56,100	52,000	—2,500	1,600
Federal	13,800	13,700	14,100	100	— 300
State and local	39,800	42,400	37,900	—2,600	1,900
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)	25,600	25,100	24,500	500	1,100
*Manufacturing	3,900	3,900	3,700	00	200
Contract construction	2,400	2,300	2,300	100	100
Transportation and utilities	2,100	2,000	2,300	100	— 200
Trade, wholesale and retail	6,500	6,400	6,200	100	300
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,500	1,400	1,400	100	100
Services and miscellaneous (7)	4,100	4,100	3,800	00	300
Government	5,100	5,000	4,800	100	300
Billings Area (Yellowstone County)	27,400	27,500	27,100	— 100	300
Manufacturing	2,900	2,900	3,000	00	— 100
Contract construction	1,700	1,700	1,800	00	— 100
Transportation and utilities	3,000	3,000	3,000	00	00
Trade, wholesale and retail	8,700	8,600	8,400	100	300
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,400	1,400	1,400	00	00
Services and miscellaneous (7)	5,300	5,200	5,200	100	100
Government	4,400	4,700	4,300	— 300	100

*Copper strike started 7/15/67

(1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants and self-employed persons are excluded.

(2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 673 selected Montana establishments.

(3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,157 such establishments.

(4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.

(5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.

(6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation,

medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit membership organizations and business not otherwise classified.

(7) Same as (6) above. Also includes hotels, rooming houses, camps, personal services and mining.

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN JULY, 1968 AND JULY, 1967

Employment Service Office	New Job Applicants				Jobseekers in File				Job Placements								UI Claims*	
	July, 1968		July, 1967		July, 1968		July, 1967		July, 1968				July, 1967				Wk. 7-26	
	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	1968	1967
Anaconda	67	9	159	17	151	25	1,043	217	49	9	58	6	121	21	142	21	93	924
Billings	627	245	572	251	1,413	436	1,447	474	422	1,497	1,919	419	351	1,430	1,781	241	386	430
Bozeman	258	58	270	46	224	56	208	59	211	89	300	62	211	106	317	74	50	49
Butte	366	86	382	76	1,756	310	1,140	266	90	18	108	17	126	13	139	28	446	570
Cut Bank	80	22	42	9	235	62	179	35	33	51	84	15	33	62	95	35	74	40
Dillon	136	66	112	58	61	13	72	11	35	159	194	101	38	144	182	70	18	27
Glasgow	57	12	104	22	132	18	164	12	69	27	96	6	98	21	119	26	55	28
Glendive	66	11	55	9	82	17	72	13	47	961	1,008	15	30	911	941	5	15	36
Great Falls	671	151	801	166	1,579	342	1,829	333	424	383	807	259	419	384	803	260	331	427
Hamilton	82	18	83	7	265	29	153	12	42	79	121	11	44	155	199	41	34	52
Havre	77	9	66	7	75	18	53	9	119	123	242	74	67	110	177	48	39	39
Helena	234	54	268	56	879	137	738	81	146	81	227	67	185	94	279	78	122	134
Kalispell	297	66	524	65	490	138	491	94	338	364	702	127	339	334	673	118	160	108
Lewistown	81	12	66	12	59	8	79	10	114	188	302	76	82	161	243	39	17	27
Libby	126	35	117	40	543	132	386	83	43	1	44	10	73		73	8	122	161
Livingston	56	8	83	9	95	15	137	12	102	79	181	35	87	74	161	37	16	22
Miles City	73	18	81	11	119	12	67	10	78	861	939	21	56	905	961	11	23	26
Missoula	682	180	714	147	1,217	313	1,172	309	333	88	421	78	244	155	399	85	202	193
Polson	211	9	108	5	355	27	178	13	147	75	222	19	120	135	255	52	42	41
Shelby	53	17	69	19	101	25	128	17	64	47	111	39	64	75	139	22	23	22
Sidney	54	5	59	7	82	4	95	7	47	1,078	1,125	4	50	1,204	1,254	16	18	21
Thompson Falls	33	9	35	7	66	13	67	13	28	18	46	7	20	19	39	4	32	19
Wolf Point	45	10	51	11	72	18	115	21	22	32	54	14	32	43	75	10	29	31
Billings YOC	375	10	356	20	682	15	773	42	150	33	183	3	96	112	208	9		
TOTALS	4,807	1,120	5,207	1,077	10,793	2,183	10,786	2,153	3,153	6,341	9,494	1,485	2,986	6,668	9,654	1,338	2,347	3,427

*Includes 210 Claims of the Fed. U.C. Program 166 same a year ago.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in cooperation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)
(Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	July (1) 1968	June (2) 1968	July 1967	July (1) 1968	June (2) 1968	July 1967	July (1) 1968	June (2) 1968	July 1967
All Manufacturing	135.22	130.98	118.27	41.1	40.3	38.4	3.29	3.25	3.08
Durable Goods	134.69	129.20	115.60	41.7	40.5	37.9	3.23	3.19	3.05
Primary Metals	126.25	126.25	106.25	39.7	39.7	35.3	3.18	3.18	3.01
Nondurable Goods	137.16	136.17	125.05	39.3	39.7	39.2	3.49	3.43	3.19
Food and Kindred Products	125.36	124.64	117.88	41.1	40.6	42.1	3.05	3.07	2.80
All Mining	140.24	134.35	123.00	40.3	39.4	38.2	3.48	3.41	3.22
Metal Mining	135.53	137.02	117.39	40.7	40.9	36.8	3.33	3.35	3.19
Transportation and									
Utilities (except Rys.)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Transportation (except Railroads)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Utilities and Communications	125.22	125.22	120.29	39.5	39.5	39.7	3.17	3.17	3.03

(1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION
COMMISSION OF MONTANAUCC BUILDING
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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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